

REMARKS

The Official action of March 5, 1997, has been carefully reviewed. Reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested. Applicants gratefully acknowledge that Claims 31 to 55 have been found allowable.

In response to the requirement in the prior Official Action for restriction under 35 U.S.C. § 121, Applicants made the election to prosecute Claim 55 with traverse. For the reasons given previously, Applicants again respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the requirement for restriction under 37 C.F.R. §1.143. In the interest of compact prosecution, however, they hereby withdraw their traverse. Accordingly, Claims 56 to 59 have been canceled.

This election is being taken without prejudice to the filing of a divisional application directed to the non-elected subject matter. In accordance with the third sentence of 35 U.S.C. § 121, a patent issuing from the instant application should not be a reference against a divisional application filed before the issuance of such patent.

Applicants gratefully appreciate the Examiner's assistance in entering the foregoing amendment and passing the application to issuance.

Respectfully submitted,

By J. Eric Thies
J. Eric Thies
Reg. No. 35,382
Attorney for Applicant

MERCK & CO., INC.
P.O. Box 2000
Rahway, New Jersey 07065-0907
(908) 594-3904

Date: April 4, 1997